



What you need to know about
**Indiana's Graduation
Qualifying Exam**

Indiana's ISTEP+ GQE

You're always learning, and what you learn in high school prepares you for college, the workforce and the real world. Solid reading, writing and math skills are "must haves" for a successful future.

To ensure you master these basics on your way to earning a high school diploma, you are required to pass the ISTEP+ Graduation Qualifying Exam – more commonly known as the GQE.

What's on the GQE?

Based on Indiana's Academic Standards, the GQE covers:

- English/language arts through Grade 9
- Mathematics through Grade 8, plus Algebra I

When is the GQE?

- You take it for the first time in the fall of your sophomore year.
- You take the test over three days in September.

How long does the GQE take?

- The test takes about six hours, over three days.
- You have to be present for testing all three days. There are no make-ups.

What if I don't pass?

- Ask your teacher and guidance counselors about extra help in areas that you didn't pass.
- You can retake the test at least four more times (September and March of your junior and senior years).
- Once you pass a specific part of the test, you don't have to retake that section.

See the back of this brochure for other ways to meet the GQE requirement and talk to your counselor for more details.



What if I have special needs?

- Several testing accommodations are available for students with disabilities or limited English proficiency, such as additional time and changes in test scheduling, format and setting.
- Talk to your parents and teachers about the specific accommodations in your Individualized Education Program, Section 504 Plan or Individual Learning Plan.

What should I do to get ready for the GQE?

- **Be prepared.** Cramming for any test is never the best way to prepare. Keep up with your homework and ask your teachers for help when you need it.
- **Review.** In the weeks before your test, take it seriously when your teachers review important information.
- **Get plenty of sleep.**
- **Have a good breakfast.** Eat protein (eggs, meat, cheese, etc.), which will help you perform better than a sugary donut. Too much food can make you feel sleepy, so don't overdo it.
- **Take a break.** Get some exercise during your breaks or after school to keep your energy up.
- **Ask for help.** If you've had trouble with ISTEP+ in the past, ask a teacher, counselor or parent about extra help now.
- **Double-check your work on the test.** You'll catch mistakes if you take time to proofread your answers carefully.

Go to www.IndianaGQE.com to check out sample questions.

Ways to meet the GQE requirement

Because reading, writing and math are fundamental to everything you'll do in life, you must meet the GQE requirement to demonstrate basic understanding of English/language arts and math before you graduate.

The GQE requirement can be met in the following ways:

1. Pass the GQE.
2. Fulfill the requirements of one of the following official GQE Waivers:
 - Core 40 waiver
 - Evidence-based waiver
 - Work-readiness waiver

**Go to www.IndianaGQE.com
or call 1-888-54-ISTEP for more details.**



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